**New Zealand Chinese Language Week**

**Assembly Script**

Ni hao everyone

This week we celebrate New Zealand Chinese Language Week. This is a chance for our country to celebrate Chinese languages and gives us a chance to reflect about why these languages are important for New Zealand now and in the future. Chinese languages are the third most spoken languages in New Zealand behind English and Te Reo Maori and are made up of Mandarin, Cantonese and other local dialects.

We will increasingly engage with Chinese people, language and culture throughout our future careers and daily lives as China continues to emerge as a world super power and New Zealand grows our relationship with China through trade, tourism and people to people links.

Here is a short clip to watch from the Asia New Zealand Foundation - <https://vimeo.com/147053421>

So this is what the numbers tell us:

* In New Zealand we currently have around 250,000 New Zealanders of Chinese ethnicity.
* Chinese is our largest markets for export and we have a solid trading partnership with China due to our Free Trade Agreement.
* China is our second fastest growth market in terms of tourist numbers and that is expected to grow as currently only 3% of the Chinese population has a passport.

In your future you will be engaging with Chinese speakers in New Zealand, many of your neighbours, your friends, your work colleagues are likely to be Chinese speakers. In your future careers you are likely to be engaging with Chinese speakers. So it is important that more New Zealanders are speaking Chinese languages and learning about the Chinese culture.

<Insert story of ex student who is engaging with Chinese language - think about students studying abroad or people with their business links. This section may be able to be extended to have them as a guest speaker>

Mastering the Chinese language is extremely important. Our school has been teaching Chinese here since <insert time>  and we are proud of the work that our Chinese language teacher <insert name> has been doing to promote the language in our community.

We will now invite <insert student names> to come and share some Chinese language with you.

We will be holding a range of activities here at <insert school name> to celebrate New Zealand Chinese Language Week including <insert activities planned for your school here> and I hope you all take up the opportunity to engage with the Chinese language and cultural activities.

Xie Xie and thank you for listening.

**Notes:**

Ni Hao - pronounced Nee How

Xie xie - pronounced shieh shieh

Speaker - Think about a past student who can speak about their own engagement with Chinese languages and share their journey. This could include a past student who is studying or has studied in a China or worked in China or set up a company here in New Zealand that works with China.

Student helper - If Chinese is taught at your school you can use one of your learners or it may be an opportunity to engage one of your international students or another Chinese speaker from the school. There are a range of posters from the NZCLW website that have key words and phrases they can use – [www.nzclw.com](http://www.nzclw.com)